



FIELD COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLES

FC No.: 902

DATE: 07-04-04

Contents:

If a provision of a regulation, departmental directive, rule, or procedure conflicts with a provision of the contract, the contract prevails except where the contract provision conflicts with State law or the Police Collective Bargaining Law. (FOP Contract, Article 61)

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I. Policy

The Field Communications Vehicles (FCV) are owned and operated by the Department of Police and shared with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS) and the Montgomery County Government for directing large or unusual events requiring significant coordination of resources. (CALEA 41.1.4.a, 46.1.2)

II. Definitions

- A. Cellular Telephone: An electronic instrument functioning as a mobile telephone in the Field Communications Vehicles, permitting dialing out or receiving calls without direct land line connection to telephone lines or assistance of a mobile operator. Cellular telephones are not a secure means of communication.
- B. Communications Specialist: A police officer skilled in technical telephone hookups.
- C. Field Comm 1 (FC1): The primary Field Communications Vehicle.
- D. Field Comm 2 (FC2): The secondary or backup Field Communications Vehicle.

- E. FCV: Refers to both of the above vehicles.

- F. Land Line: A direct wire connection between the telephones in the FCV and telephone company lines, permitting dialing out and receiving calls.

- G. Operator: A police officer qualified to drive, set up, and operate the FCV. The operator is responsible for the condition and maintenance of the FCV. A list of authorized operators is maintained at SOD. (CALEA 41.1.4.e, 41.1.4.g)

III. Location

ECC will maintain the location of the FCVs. Further inquiries can be directed to tactical support at 301-279-1133.

IV. Criteria for Use (CALEA 41.1.4.b, 41.1.4.c)

A. Spontaneous Events

The requester must be the Senior Ranking Officer (SRO) on the scene, either police or fire/rescue. The SRO of MCFRS ECC may also request the FCV if the information received at the time of dispatch dictates a response (i.e., train wreck, air crash, large hazmat incident, etc.). The ECC supervisor will be notified of the need for the FCV and provided the following information by the requester:

1. Location of event
2. Nature of event
3. Best approach to the scene
4. Any special needs of the situation

The ECC supervisor will page both centralized tactical support officers with the request and provide the above information on the event. The tactical support officers will first attempt to locate on-duty operators to respond.

B. Pre-Planned Events

Use of the FCV on pre-planned events will be coordinated through the Deputy Director of SOD.

V. Capabilities and Limitations of the Field Communications Vehicles

- A. Capabilities (CALEA 41.1.4.f)
1. Cellular mobile telephone
 2. Extensive radio communications
 3. Direct telephone lines
 4. Intercom
 5. Air conditioning and heat
 6. Electric power (supplied by on-board generator or shore line connection)
 7. Lighting (vehicle-mounted and portable flood lights)
 8. **Computerized** reference materials on board:
 - a. Incident command system
 - b. Hazardous materials books
 - c. County directories
 - d. Master Resource Directory
 - e. Maps
 9. Television and radio [broadcast and direct video down link from traffic aircraft (MC10)]
 10. Aerial photos of county
 11. **57' mast with color and black and white cameras**
 12. **Satellite internet and television**
 13. **Digital recording and archiving**
 14. **LAN (Local Area Network), wired and wireless**
 15. **Color plotter**
 16. **FAX capabilities**
 17. **Seven workstations with private networking capability.**
- B. Limitations (CALEA 41.1.4.b)
1. Weight: FC1 and FC2 are heavy vehicles that require firm ground for positioning.
 2. Overhead Obstructions: Overhanging trees and wires present a danger to the vehicle and roof mounted equipment (clearance -12 ft.).
 3. Narrow Access: Due to the sheer size of FC 1 and FC 2, it may not be possible to situate the units in narrow lanes and drives. Sufficient space to maneuver is required (clearance - 12 ft.).
 4. Response time: Sufficient lead time is needed to affect a response. Engine warm-up and a safe response speed (due to size and weight) are limiting factors. Early notification will ensure a timely response.
- C. Requirements
- When deployed on the scene of an event, the FCV will be positioned in a safe place (out of the line of fire where applicable), without

blocking other vehicles or fire apparatus. If possible, the FCV should be located near a source of electric power and telephone connections. The vehicle operator has the responsibility and final authority as to the safe placement of the vehicle. Persons must be provided to operate the radio equipment on the vehicle by the requester and/or ECC. FCV operators will not be responsible for handling radio/telephone messages.

VI. Indicated Uses

- A. The FCVs can be very effective on the scene of any event, and their use is encouraged. They provide a secure, controlled environment from which complex investigations, long term details, or emergency situations can be coordinated.
- B. Examples of events include:
1. Hostage/barricade situations
 2. Major highway accidents
 3. Extended crime scene searches
 4. Lost child/missing person searches
 5. River rescues
 6. Search warrant service on large premises
 7. Civil disturbances and demonstrations
 8. Hazardous material incidents
 9. Multi-alarm fires and cleanup operations
 10. Any disaster or major transportation accident

VII. Operational Responsibilities

- A. The operator of the FCV will: (CALEA 41.1.4.e)
1. Determine the equipment requirements needed and which FCV will be utilized.
 2. Perform operational check-out of the vehicle to be used.
 3. Determine the best route to the scene and respond safely.
 4. Advise ECC when en route and ETA.
 5. On the scene, make contact with the SRO.
 6. Set up the FCV for use, and maintain it in that status during the course of the event.
 7. Assist the on-scene commander with resource procurement as needed.
 8. Prepare the FCV for return to service at the conclusion of the event.
 9. Operate the unit in accordance with established guidelines.
- B. The communications specialist will: (CALEA 41.1.4.e)

1. Assist the vehicle operator as needed.
2. Check with the incident commander/SRO to determine special communications needs.
3. Set up and maintain communications as needed until the conclusion of the event (or when released by the incident commander/SRO).

C. Radio/telephone operators will be supplied by either the person requesting the command vehicle (the SRO on the scene) or ECC. The radio/telephone operators will:

1. Staff a radio console or phone position as assigned.
2. Relay important information obtained through ECC to the Incident Commander or designee.

VIII. Training (CALEA 41.1.4.d)

A. Field Personnel

Unit commanders should arrange to have their supervisory personnel participate in familiarization training on the FCV.

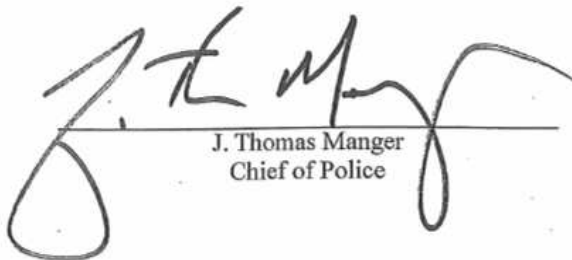
B. Operators

Operators will train regularly with the FVCs in order to maintain their proficiency in vehicle and equipment operations. (CALEA 41.1.4.g)

IX. Proponent Unit: FSB Administration

X. Cancellation

This directive cancels Function Code 902, effective date 03-12-99.



J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police